Famine Conditions in Bihar

2832. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in Economic Times dated the 29th October, 1992 acute and severe famine conditions are prevailing in Bihar;

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to counter the situation; and

(c) whether Government would use this situation to generate employment opportunities for masses aimed at increased agricultural output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to the reports received from Government of Bihar, 29 districts in the State are affected by drought conditions due to deficient rainfall during the south-west monsoon 1992.

(b) and (c) The major thrust areas identified by the state Government to fight the drought conditions are the following:—

(i) augmentation of irrigation potential by tapping additional sources;

(ii) maximum exploitation of ground water resources;

(iii) implementation of contingency Plans for alternate crops;

(vi) generation of additional employment for drought proofing and increased agricultural production;

(v) augmentation of power and diesel supplies for irrigation purposes;

(vi) provision for drinking water in the affected areas

(vii) streamlining of Public Distribution System;

(viii) contingency Plan for prevention of epidemics.

Enforcement of PIC clause for pesticides exports

2833. SHRI B.K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formally enforced Prior Informed Consent for pesticide exports as provided under the FAO Code; and

(b) whether the FAO Code has been fully adopted and implemented by Government, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The main exphasis of the FAO Code is on:—

(i) regulation of the manufacture and use of pesticides in the country.

(ii) establishing mechanism for ensuring the quality of pesticides and safety in the distribution of pesticides.

(iii) regulatory mechanism for enforcing standards so as to enhance bio-efficacy and reduce health and environmental hazards in the manufacture and trade of pesticides; and

(iv) prescription of labelling, packaging, storage and disposal requirements and restrictions. These matters are already governed by the provision of Insecticides Act, 1968 and suitable infrastructure for their implementation exists.